

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01

OES-03 H-01 L-02 OIC-02 AEC-05 AECE-00 SP-02 AID-05

EB-04 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 AGR-05 COME-00 SWF-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8195

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, WFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: CONTACT GROUP AND GROUP B MEETINGS
ON FOLLOW-UP INSTITUTIONS

REF: ROME 15861

SUMMARY: AUSTRALIANS DEVELOPED OVERNIGHT AND PRESENTED IN THURSDAY MORNING GROUP B MEETING A COMPROMISE DRAFT ON FOLLOW-UP INSTITUTIONS, BUT GROUP B WAS STILL UNABLE TO REACH CONSENSUS. IN AFTERNOON MEETING OF CONTACT GROUP, ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN FORMULATED POSSIBLE CONSENSUS OF ALL GROUPS, BUT NIGERIANS PERSISTED IN DESIRE TO MAKE FAO CONFERENCE TOP BODY, AND IT WAS EVIDENT THAT G-77 HAD NOT REACHED INTERNAL AGREEMENT. CHAIRMAN'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DRAFTING GROUP WERE THEREFORE UNSUCCESSFUL. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CIRCULATED ITS NEW DRAFT ON FOLLOW-UP INSTITUTIONS WITHIN GROUP B DURING DAY (REPORT

ED
SEPTEL) AND GROUP B IN EVENING MEETING REACHED GENERAL CONSENSUS ON IT AND AGREE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM COULD PRESENT IT EITHER ORALLY OR IN WIRING, TO CONTACT GROUP FRIDAY AS SET OF IDEAS
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ON WHICH GROUP B PROBABLY CAN REACH CONSENSUS. END SUMMARY

1. ALGERIAN LISTED POINTS OF AGREEMENT AS HE SAW THEM. SAID EVERYONE WAS ACCEPTING CONCEPT OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AS CHAPEAU. DEVELOPING AND PARTICULARLY NONALIGNED COUNTRIES WANTED SUCH COUNCIL. EVERYONE ALSO RECOGNIZED NEED TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS NOW INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY FAO. SOME CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION AND ORGANIZATION WOULD BE NECESSARY. ALL SEEMED AGREED THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD CALL ON SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO GIVE ATTENTION TO FOOD PROBLEM WITHIN THEIR AREAS OF COMPETENCE. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BELIEVED NEW WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE DIRECTLY TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ALTHOUGH SOME PREFER ECOSOC. AS TO COMPOSITION, COUNCIL SHOULD GIVE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION TO REGIONS. HEADS OF OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN FOOD MATTERS SHOULD BE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. SUBORDINATE COMMITTEES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD AID COULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF FAO AND WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. OTHER AGENCIES SHOULD ALSO ESTABLISH FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEES, AND FINANCIAL AGENCIES SHOULD ESTABLISH TIES WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL STRUCTURE.

2. ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO DROP IDEA THAT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WOULD ISSUE DIRECTIVES TO OTHER AGENCIES ,
IN FAVOR OF RECOMMENDATIONS. BANGLADESH LATER SUGGESTED ADDING ADVICE TO RECOMMENDATIONS. UNIED UNKDOM AND UNITED STATES INDICATED EACH TIME THAT THIS FORMULATION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GROUP B. QUESTION OF PROPOSED FUND WAS DISCUSSED, AND UNITED STATES INDICATED FUND COULD BE BROUGHT INTO REALTIONSHIP WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL BY KEEPING IT INFORMED, WITHOUT SUBORDINATING THIS OR OTHER FUNDS TO COUNCIL.

3. SOVIET UNION PURSUED LINE OF LEGAL QUESTIONING SIMILAR TO THAT OF UNITED STATES ON PREVIOUS DAY, ASKING ABOUT STATUS OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, POINTING OUT EACH UN AGENCY HAS ITS OWN AGREEMENT AND CHARTER, AND SAYING GENERAL EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING MADE TO STRENGTHEN ECOSOC.

4. CHAIRMAN OF CONTACT GROUP TRIED TO ESTABLISH DRAFTING GROUP, BUT GROUP B REPRESENTATIVES DEMURRED ON GROUNDS NEITHER THEY NOR OTHER GROUPS WERE INTERNALLY UNITED. CHAIRMAN THEN DEFERRED MATTER TO 10:30 AM MEETING FRIDAY.
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5. IN 6:45 PM GROUP B MEETING, CONSENSUS WAS QUICKLY REACHED THAT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DRAFT CIRCULATED EARLIER IN DAY (AND REPORTED TO DEPT IN SEPTEL COULD BE PRESENTED IN ORAL SUMMARY OR IN WIRING, IN CONTACT GROUP GEETING FRIDAY AS SET OF IDEAS AROUND WHICH GROUP B CONSENSUS COULD PROBABLY BE FORMED.
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